HERALD

Schools will maintain relaxed CO-**VID** policies for new school year

Mississippi Today by Julia James

Mississippi leaders are largely planning to continue using their COVID policies from last school year, but some have the last year. dropped protections altogether.

Schools have been relearning as their primary Local school boards are alspecific policies regarding omicron waves. The Misdents receive direct instruc- that families can receive

each day that they would inperson. Any other decisions

gins as COVID-19 cases same number of minutes through their county health guidance.



Hyde-Smith backs bill to end illegal immigrant abuse of asylum system

Asylum Accountability Measure Exchanges 10-year Penalty, with Permanent Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. would permanently bar il- our border." legal immigrants who fail to

apply for asylum, abscond the nation's laws. from their court hearings,

the United States.

cies that give the world the United States for 10 years. impression that our borders

"Illegal immigrants are abusing current asylum law, ernment Accountability Ofliving in the country for years fice study, 9 percent of all before having to appear in illegal immigrants enrolled immigration court, and then in Alternatives to Detention failing to show up," said Til- ultimately absconded. lis. "The Biden administration's failed policies have mer (R-N.D.), Bill Haggerty caused the unprecedented (R-Tenn.), and Ted Cruz (Rcrisis at the southern border, Texas) are also original co-

ing the asylum process."

on any illegal immigrant who tries to skirt the law and

The permanent ban would and live consequence free in strengthen the Immigration jumping to unwarranted con- the officer, and be a better the United States. U.S. Sen- and Nationality Law, which clusions. ator Thom Tillis authored the currently makes an illegal immigrant who fails to ap- a 5-year-old boy and a older son is being "ticketed" "The virtual free-for-all pear for their immigration 14-month-old boy interact for unintentionally exceedat the border is the result of court hearing deportable and on a daily basis, the younger ing his younger brother's Biden administration poli-banned from entering the one is bound to experience

Fueled by the Biden admin- almost inevitable conse- pect him to be more upset are wide open. Many illegal istration's failed catch and quence of having two boys, than remorseful. He's being border crossers have learned release policies, the current and you are going to go punished for being, at worst, to game the asylum process, wait time for an asylum case slowly insane if you assign which makes a mockery of to be completed is 4½ years. yourself to the impossible the legal immigration sys- There are over 667,000 asy- task of preventing this from sort happen, you should take tem," Hyde-Smith said. lum seekers in the backlog, happening. For at least the "Senator Tillis' legislation meaning potentially tens of next three to four years, until would begin to restore order thousands of illegal immiby making sure there are se- grants will continue to break to level out, the younger one rious consequences for abus- the law and disappear into our communities.

According to a recent Gov-

U.S. Senators Kevin Craand it's only getting worse. sponsors of the Asylum Ac-This legislation cracks down countability Act.

department.

Policies vary from district education regarding masking, quaran- to district, but most appear tining, sanitation, and vac- to be relaxing or maintaining cination have been made by relaxed COVID safety protodistricts at the local level for cols for the upcoming school year, which begins for most The new school year be- districts in early August.

Greg Ellis, spokesperare rising in Mississippi, son for the Tupelo School quired to offer in-person with 1,705 positive cases District, said the district is on July 27 compared to 105 generally continuing to folmethod of instruction since at the beginning of May. low its 2021-2022 plan but the start of last school year. While high, they have not has added cameras in classyet climbed to the levels rooms so that students who lowed to develop their own seen during the delta and are quarantining due to positivity or exposure can convirtual options, but are re- sissippi State Department of tinue to participate remotely quired to ensure that stu- Health recently announced in instruction. The district's quarantine policies say they tion from a teacher for the eight rapid tests each month follow CDC and MSDH

> The Greenville School District is also maintaining its 2021-2022 policies, but it requires all students, staff, and visitors to wear

tanced seating.

Public School District has not require masking and say employees but will continue toms. contact tracing and sanitation efforts.

for the rest of our lives," said Gulfport Superintendent Glen East. He elaboreturn to school.

The DeSoto School District is also most- courages parents to review going to continue to happen ly returning to pre-pandemic Centers for Disease Control unless we do everything we norms, including regarding and Prevention guidance, can to slow down transmiscampus events and school and can provide testing and sion in schools." lunch prices. Their plan in- vaccination support to disstructs parents to contact tricts. the school nurse for instructions regarding the length of president of the Mississippi quarantine, and the district Chapter of the American clarified that absences due to COVID are still excused.

Living With

Children

The Lauderdale Coun-

By John Rosemond

O: Our soon to be 5-yearimplements a commonsense old son enjoys playing with misinterpreting big brother's bar on obtaining benefits for his 14-month-old brother, anyone who fails to show up but there have been three U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde- for their court hearing. This times recently when the baby Smith (R-Miss.) this week policy is long overdue and it has started crying and when justifiably upset at having cosponsored legislation that is time we regain control of I check, big brother has a guilty look on his face. So he didn't intend to do. S.4636 was introduced in far, the baby has suffered a appear in immigration court response to illegal immi- scratch under one eye, a red to stay within the speed limfrom benefitting from the grants who take advantage of mark on his face where a ball it, but I fail to see a "Reduce Immigration and Nationality the asylum system by mak- hit him, and a bruised fore- Speed Ahead" sign and I'm Act, the law that governs im- ing an asylum claim then head from falling over. When ticketed for speeding, I'm migration and citizenship in running out the clock and big brother is banished to his not going to be remorseful. never showing up for their room for these incidents, he I'm going to be upset (albeit The Asylum Accountabil- immigration court hearing. is more upset about being careful not to let the officer ity Act (S.4636) would sig- These cases have increased punished than about hurt- know). After all, it was not nificantly sharpen the pen- as a result of the Biden ad- ing his brother. His lack of my intention to speed. On alty for illegal immigrants ministration's failure to se- remorse bothers us. As a re- the other hand, if I'm intenwho enter the country ille- cure the border and action to sult, we've put baby brother tionally speeding, trying to gally with a belief they can limit interior enforcement of off limits for a time. Are we shave time off a trip, and I'm expecting too much?

occasional pain. This is the circumstances, I'd fully exthe physical disparity begins will experience more playrelated insult than the older one. In and of itself, this isn't bad. It's just the way it is. Then, help him learn ways Boy play tends to be rough at of playing that won't involve times. Furthermore, the fact risk of pain to the baby, as that big brother even wants in, "Roll the ball instead of to play with a 14-month-old throwing it." You also need is a good sign, an early indi- to praise him for his attempts cation of a growing relation- to be such a good big brothship. Count your lucky stars er, however awkward they that signs do not point to may be at times.

early resentment on the part

of your first-born.

Furthermore, you may be reaction to being punished for these incidents. You think he lacks remorse. I think he's been punished for something

For example, if I'm trying pulled over, I'm going to ac-A: I think you may be cept the ticket, apologize to citizen in the future. I have Let's face it, folks, when a strong feeling that your "speed limit." Under the

> When incidents of this the opportunity to help big brother understand the baby's limits. For example: "I know you want to teach your brother to play catch, but you can't teach a baby to catch by throwing things at him."

John Rosemond: johnrose-

mond.com, parentguru.com.

ture checks and socially dis- School Districts have not ing immunocompromised made any substantial chang- family, or if they are show-By contrast, the Jackson es to their plans, which do ing any cold symptoms. dropped its mask mandate students should quarantine just like when school started and vaccine mandate for if they are exhibiting symp- back last year and we saw

"COVID-19 seems to be will no longer be requir- dle of a big omicron surge another sickness we're just ing weekly reporting from now, and we're concerned going to have to deal with schools of positive cases or that it's going to also hapquarantined students as they pen in schools. We already "transition to more routine, know that school teachsustainable surveillance." ers are out in our area, we rated that the district will Generally, the MSDH rec- know children who have require a doctor's note to ommends that masks should tested positive have missed be worn when community their first week of school County transmission is high, en- ... These are things that are

> Dr. Anita Henderson, Academy of Pediatrics, said that vaccinations are going to be the most effective way of slowing down transmission and encouraged parents to get their children vaccinated, as well as staff to get boosted if they are eligible. Children ages 6 months and older are also now eligible for vaccines, which can be scheduled through MSDH.

She also encouraged families to pick up at-home tests and double-check before at-

masks, as well as tempera- ty and Vicksburg-Warren tending group events, visit-

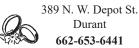
"We are very concerned. that huge surge of delta in State Epidemiologist Dr. the fall," Henderson said. Paul Byers said MSDH "We're already in the mid-

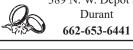
> Mississippi Today intern Allison Santa-Cruz contributed to this reporting.



Sarah Grai Matthew Breazeale *November 5, 2022*

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